

NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL
36 Years of Service to Improving Delaware's Quality of Life
"Preserving Delaware's Natural Areas Today for all Delawareans Tomorrow"

NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2019
Rose Cottage
102 South State Street
Dover, DE 19901
9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council Members:

Debbie Heaton, Chair
John Williams, Esq.
Dr. Christopher Heckscher
Richard Bergold
Edward Lewandowski, Secretary

Park Staff:

Matt Chesser
Bob Ehemann
Elena Stewart
Bill Miller
Tim Byan

Visitors:

Charles Salkin, Kent County Conservancy

I. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions/Announcements

Mrs. Heaton called the Natural Areas Advisory Council meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. She told the Council that Elena Stewart, the Land Preservation Specialist for Parks, was going to lead the meeting today and had everyone introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The December and March minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Old Business

- None

IV. Natural Areas Registry

- No issues at this time.

V. Nature Preserve Dedications

- Elena told the Council that she had been talking to DelDOT about dedicating a portion of their property as Nature Preserve and possibly giving the property to Parks through a custodial resolution as well. John Williams asked if there was a legal description written for the parcel, which is referenced as CA-1 on the survey which was presented. Elena said there was not one but that she would look into getting one drafted. Charles (Chazz) Salkin gave some history on the parcel including his discussions with Jennifer Cohan, Secretary of DelDOT, in which she expressed her excitement on the prospect of this portion of the property adding to the Fork Branch Nature Preserve.

Debbie Heaton asked the Council for a motion on the dedication. John made a motion to approve the dedication, Richard Bergold seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Nature Preserve Management Issues

- Elena told the Council that Parks had been reviewing the management of the Angola Neck Nature Preserve. Currently, Parks pays to maintain a road through the preserve but there is not anywhere for the public to park to access the beach area, where there is a trail. Matt Chesser expanded on the issue saying that Parks is exploring increasing public use in the area and possibly opening up the parking lot, which is now closed off to cars by posts. Debbie expressed her support for the Parks initiative and said the Council would be happy to write a letter or offer their support in a public meeting with the residents.

VII. New Business

- Elena told the Council that the Natural Areas Program Manager had not yet been filled and that she would be running the Natural Area Advisory Council meetings for the immediate future.
- Chazz gave a presentation on the Kent County Conservancy (KCC) and what they were doing to expand the Fork Branch Nature Preserve in Dover. Currently, the Fork Branch Nature Preserve is the only Nature Preserve within a municipal boundary and Chazz showed the Council the corridor where he was having conversations with property owners to donate or sell their lands to Parks, who could then dedicate them as Nature Preserve. The Council expressed their interest and appreciation.
- Elena told the Council that she and Tim Bryan would be visiting Frenchtown Woods the following day to see how they could expand the Nature Preserve there. Christopher (Kit) Heckscher told the Council that an endangered diving beetle was discovered there by accident.
- Bill Miller gave an update on the White Clay Creek State Park Master Plan. He said

that a draft had been created and that a public meeting to formalize that draft would occur in late summer or early fall.

VIII. Public Comment and Synopsis Reports from other Councils

- Elena spoke to the opportunity for the Open Space Council to work more closely with the Natural Areas Advisory Council through similar interests and projects. Elena told the Council that she was anticipating getting a 5 acre donation which could expand Flint Woods in New Castle County. Additionally, she told the Council that the Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs recently settled on the last 10 acre portion of the Cooch property which was not already protected.

IX. Proposed Meeting Dates

- September 5 and December 12 subject to change
- Considering September 5 field trip meeting.

X. Adjournment

Debbie thanked everyone and asked for a motion to adjourn.